

House Republican Press Release

April 22, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Ruwet Opposes Excessive \$1-Billion Tax Increase



State Rep. Anne L. Ruwet, R-65th, Torrington, opposes a proposed two-year state budget and tax package. She said it is excessive, raises taxes by \$1.1 billion and exceeds the state constitutional spending cap by \$434 million.

The Torrington representative who serves on the legislature's tax writing Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee voted against a Democrat-proposed tax plan that would fund a \$31.8-billion budget, or \$647 million more than Governor M. Jodi Rell's biennial budget.

Rep. Ruwet noted that Connecticut residents already pay the largest combined federal, state and local taxes per capita in America. The Tax Foundation estimates that Connecticut taxpayers work until May 3 to pay their taxes, the longest of any state, before they can have funds to pay living expenses for themselves and their families.

Rep. Ruwet noted that now serving in her second term, the legislature would have increased taxes since 2002 by more than \$2 billion. We need to seriously evaluate how to efficiently provide the needed services without passing the burden onto the taxpayer.

Rep. Ruwet said, "Connecticut is still digging itself out of a hole after three tough years when state revenues were down. This is not the time to throw caution to the wind and start spending excessively. We ought to rebuild our Rainy Day Fund for the protection of our children's future as well as encourage business growth."

Rep. Ruwet added, "Connecticut families are among the most heavily taxed of any state. The state economy is lagging the rest of the nation, and consumer confidence right now is down. This is the time to slow the growth in spending, not increase it to record levels. Increasing taxes in this budget by more than \$1 billion is beyond comprehension."

The governor and state lawmakers must reach an agreement on a new two-year budget before the session adjourns on June 8.